



September 30, 2011

Michael Machado  
Delta Protection Commission  
P.O. Box 530  
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Dear Mr. Machado:

**Directors**

Timothy Egan, President  
Terry Connolly  
Arnold Lenk  
Tony Vaccarella  
Jim Waters

**Associate Directors**

Dennis Becker  
Bill Brush  
H. Kent Hansen  
Mike Lewis

**Directors Emeritus**

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James Bancroft  
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Steven Chappell  
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Bruce Wickland  
Operations Manager  
Kelli Perez  
Office Supervisor  
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Office Assistant  
Orlando Rocha  
Water Manager/Biologist  
Tim Edmunds  
Water Manager/Biologist  
Jeff Taylor  
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SUISUN RESOURCE  
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On behalf of the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD), I am writing to express support of the Delta National Heritage Area (NHA) and request that the Suisun Marsh be included in the conceptual boundaries for the Delta NHA. On July 14<sup>th</sup> 2010, the SRCD Board of Directors considered the proposal to include the Suisun Marsh into of a Delta NHA and was supportive of the concept, but expressed concerns about how a Delta NHA may impact existing land use, recreation, and public agency future regulatory authority.

The Suisun Marsh is located at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and is directly adjacent to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The two regions hold a shared heritage in many ways: geographically, ecologically, culturally, and recreationally. The 1977 Suisun Marsh Preservation Act protected the Suisun Marsh as the largest estuarine marsh in the western United States. It is extremely diverse ecologically as it is home to a great diversity of plants, fish, birds, and other wildlife. It also includes one of the best remaining examples of a brackish tidal marsh. Like the Delta, Suisun Marsh was significantly altered in the late 1800's and early 1900's by the construction of levees for the development of agriculture. However, increased salinity resulting from the development of the State and Federal water projects and upstream diversions led to the decline of productive agriculture in the Marsh. As a result, most of the Marsh was purchased by public and private interests to support wintering waterfowl habitat and waterfowl hunting.

A number of resources exist in Suisun Marsh which are being used for educational, interpretive, and/or recreational purposes, and can also support a Delta NHA. The California Department of Fish and Game's Grizzly Island Wildlife Area and the Solano Land Trust's Rush Ranch have properties open to the public for wildlife viewing, hiking, bird watching, photography, hunting, and fishing.

Again on behalf of the SRCD, I am writing to express support of the concept of a Delta NHA and request that the Suisun Marsh be included within the conceptual boundaries. SRCD looks forward to working with Delta Protection Commission to identify the opportunities and constraints that this proposal may bring to the Delta and Suisun Marsh. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Steve Chappell", written in a cursive style.

Steve Chappell  
Executive Director